ECA/STPA/News No. 12

C

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

LC/NAIROBI

STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (STPA)

STATISTICS DIVISION

STPA NEWS NO. 12

January 1987
Addis Ababa

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The twelfth issue of STPA news contains information about (a) in-service or middle level training programmes at national level, (b) news from STPA centres, (c) short-term statistical training opportunities available outside the region and (d) miscellaneous news.

We would like to include in this publication news from centres participating in the STPA, non-STPA centres and Associate centres on statistical training, namely news about seminars, workshops, introduction or changes of training courses or programmes etc. We would also like to include news about in-service or middle level statistical training at national level concerning progress in the implementation of these programmes. Kindly forward your contributions to the:

The Chief
Statistics Division
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

We hope that this issue of STPA news will, as in the past, have a wide dissemination within all the countries of the African region and interested institutions.

I. IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF MIDDLE LEVEL TRAINING PROGRAMME AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Central Africa Republic (13-20 November 1986)

The mission was a follow up of those already carried from 21 to 30 March 1985 and from 15 to 22 February 1986 in the framework of the activities for the implementation of middle level statistical training programme within the "Ecole nationale d'administration et de magistrature (ENAM)", Bangui.

The special feature of this mission is that it was undertaken jointly by the Director of the "Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes de pays en développement" (CESD), Paris and the Statistical Training Adviser for the French-speaking African countries. Its main objective was to carry out a project evaluation on the assistance by the Commission of the European Communities to the Central Africa Republic in the field of middle level statistical training at national level. The second objective of the mission was to discuss the establishment of a permanent training programme with the Statistical Training Adviser based in Bangui.

The "Centre de formation de la statistique" (CFS) started its course of "Adjoints techniques" in October 1985 with nine (9) students all at the level of "agents techniques" working within the National Statistical Office. The entrance examination to this group of students did not include students from the secondary schools because of the public sector recruitment restriction recommended by the International Monetary Fund to the Central Africa Republic Government.

The first national counterpart nominated to work with the Statistical Training Adviser did not perform satisfactorily and was replaced in April 1986 by another national statistician. The only difficulty encountered during the first year of the existance of CFS was the low level of assimilation of the courses by the students. This was reflected at the end of year examinations when only five students were declared eligible to continue to the second year programme.

It should be noted that at the end of the first two years of operation, the CFS will only train no more than five students at the level of"adjoints techniques". The conclusion of the mission was that if the CFS continues to operate at the current level the cost of training one middle level statistician in Central Africa will be more than sending him/her on a similar course outside the country. The mission therefore put emphasis, in its discussions with the national authorities, on the research of possible solutions to assist the CFS to be more efficient despite the recruitment restriction recommended by the IMF.

II. NEWS FROM STPA CENTRES

Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The following news covers a period of approximately two years:

a) Prof. Biyi Afonja delivered on 30 May 1985 a University Inagural lecture at the University of Ibadan. The title of his lecture was "Facts, Figures and Falsehood Syndrome in Society". The lecture has since been published by the Ibadan University Press. Further information about the lecture can be obtained from the author whose address is: University of Ibadan, Department of Statistics, Ibadan, Nigeria or from the Publisher.

b) In November 1985, Prof. Afonja became President of the Nigerian Statistical Association and also Chairman of the Governing Council, Ogun State College of Education.

c) Both Professor Afonja and Dr. T.A. Bamiduro participated as resource persons in a training course on Statistics in Agricultural Experimentation, 7-25 April 1986, organized by the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan.

d) Professor S.O. Adamu returned from sabbatical leave in October 1986. His sabbatical leave was spent carrying out assignments for the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, the FAO and the Federal Office of Statistics, Lagos.

e) Mr. Timothy Adebayo Bamiduro, a member of staff of the Department and a one-time beneficiary of an STPA fellowship successfully defended his Ph.D thesis on 3rd. April 1986. The title of his thesis is "Statistical Inference on Land Equivalent Ratio Indices Inter-cropping Experiment". This is the third Ph.D degree awarded by the Department. Others are Dr. A.F. Ige whose topic is "Contributions to Portstratified Sampling and Double Sampling for Stratification", 16th June 1984, and Dr. F.C. Okafor who worked on "Use of Multistage Sampling over two occasions" 31st January 1985. They have all been awarded Ph.D degrees.

f) The Department and the University hosted the tenth Annual Conference of the Nigerian Statistical Association between 15th and 18th September 1986. The theme of the one week anniversary Conference was "Statistical Awareness and National Development". The Conference which was judged very successful was declared open by Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu, Minister for National Planning. A pre-conference week of activities throughout the Federation preceeded the annual Conference.

Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE),
Kampala, Uganda

- Advisory Council meeting (19 September 1986)

Mr. E.F. Ching'anda, Statistical Training Adviser for the English-speaking African countries attended the 11th meeting of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) held at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda on 19 September 1986. During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed and some of them are as follows:

a) Buildings for the Institute: It was reported that although the architectural drawings of the buildings which comprise of halls of residence for foreign students, flats for visiting academics, lecture theatres, library, students study rooms, administration offices, etc., had been completed. The construction of the buildings could not start due to lack of finance. It was reported that due to the acute shortage of building materials in the country, there will be need for external assistance in terms of convertible foreign currency to be able to purchase these building materials.

b) Computer equipment: It was reported that four micro computers had been acquired, two from the Population Council in July 1985 and two from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in August 1986. Two micro computers were expected from UNFPA in December 1986. The EEC representative at the meeting reported that under EDF funding and according to the requirements of the Institute, following the 1981/82 EEC/ACP/ECA joint study, the EEC had requested the ACP Secretariat in Brussels to prepare a project document for the supply of micro computers to the STPA centres. The ECA representative at the meeting reported that a request from the ACP Secretariat had been received by ECA to prepare the project document to the total expenditure of 400,000 ECU's covering all STPA centres which were identified during the joint study to require micro computers. The question of exposing available computer software to users in a systematic way was raised by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) representative at the meeting. Such an exposure was viewed to be in a form of 2-3 week workshops.

c) Post-graduate programmes: It was reported that the Diploma in Statistics (Dip.Stat.) programme was launched during the 1985/86 academic year. The final line up of the Masters in Statistics (M.Stat.) programme was presented at the meeting. It was also reported that the masters degree in demography which had been proposed following recommendations by UNFPA to establish a Demographic Unit at Makerere University had been accepted by the University.

d) Cost of training and admission of students: The Institute was called upon to review its cost of training in view of the concern expressed at the meeting that the cost of training students at the Institute was higher than is the case in some universities in developed countries. The question of late admissions was also raised. It was mentioned that late admissions might discourage donor financing due to lack of evidence that the students have indeed been admitted.

Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC),
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

- Advisory Board Meeting (22-23 September 1986)

Mr. E.F. Ching'anda also attended the 40th Advisory Board meeting of the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) held at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda from 22-23 September 1986. During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed and some of them are as follows:

a) Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) block grants to EASTC: It was reported that the block grant would be increased from US$56,000 to US$70,000 during the 1986/87 academic year. Mention was made of the need for financial assistance to be given to the Acting Director of the centre to enable him visit the user countries of the centre with the purpose of recruiting more students and avoid low number of admissions.

b) In-country training arrangements: It was mentioned that although EASTC was not involved in the country courses, it could play the role of standardizing of syllabuses in these courses, provision of teaching assistance, acting as external examiner and where possible awarding of certificates. The Acting Director was requested by the meeting to ascertain this role through a visit to some of the countries conducting such courses.

c) Survey on Training Demand for middle level personnel in the Eastern and Southern Africa countries: It was reported that following the preparation of the draft questionnaire for the survey by ECA, the questionnaire was circulated for comments to the special Adviser (Statistics) (CFTC), Acting Director EASTC, Chief of Censuses and Surveys Advisory Services in the ECA Statistics Division and the Chief of Statistics Division, ECA in July 1986. The Board directed that the questionnaire should be finalised after taking into account comments so far received and those to be submitted by ISAE and the Acting Director of EASTC. Members of the Board were also provided with copies of the questionnaire to enable them submit their comments if they felt like doing so.

d) Staff development and welfare: The Board requested the Acting Director to prepare a staff development plan. The Board supported the formulation of a staff welfare committee whose task is to look into the scheme of service of the centre and other related welfare issues. The committee members are: The Acting Director of the Centre, Government Statistician (Tanzania), Director of Manpower and Development (Government of Tanzania) including representative of the Governments of Kenya and Uganda.

e) Progress on Regionalisation: It was reported that a consultant had been appointed by the EEC with the purpose of preparing architectural drawings for the EASTC buildings and also to make proposals regarding the construction and utilisation of the buildings for the next five years. The Board was informed that the delay in the provision of the funds by the EEC had been due to the fact that EASTC is not included in the new co-operation agreement of the former East African Community Countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). In addition, there is no legal document which commits the countries to continue supporting the centre. The Acting Director explained that EASTC and other institutions of the former East African Community do not feature in the new area of co-operation because these institutions had no liabilities and assets. The Acting Director of the centre was requested to prepare a proposal with the assistance of the EEC, which will regularise in a legal form the status of the centre.

f) Research at EASTC: As part of research activities, the Acting Director was requested to conduct annually indepth analysis of students field project results. He was also requested to make proposals of research which should be circulated to Board members for comments. On development of teaching materials, the ECA representative emphasized their importance and said that his organisation would be willing to collaborate in the development of teaching materials.

g) Review of the syllabus of the centre: The Board was informed that a review of the syllabus of the centre had been conducted by Dr. G.M. Clarke of the Institute of Statisticians and Dr. Ben Kiregyera of the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics from 19 May to 6 June 1986. The Board requested the Acting Director to present a detailed list of changes suggested by the syllabus review committee in the report of the meeting. The syllabus review committee was thanked for the work done and CFTC was thanked for providing the financial assistance to enable the syllabus review to be conducted.

Ecole Nationale Superieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The "Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée" (ENSEA), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, has announced the opening of a post-graduate statistical training cycle starting from the 1987-1988 academic year. It concerns the "Ingenieurs statisticiens économistes" (ISE) training programme. The applicants to this new programme must be born after 31 December 1960. The training programme has a duration of 3 academic years. The entrance examination to this course will be held according to the following time-table:

- Direct entrance examination: 13, 14 and 15 April 1987
- Test in mathematics for candidates who choose to study economics as a major subject: 21 April 1987

The entrance examinations for the existing programmes at ENSEA will be held as follows:

- Direct and professional entrance examinations for "Ingénieurs de travaux statistiques" programme: 21, 22 and 23 April 1987
- Direct and professional entrance examinations for "Adjoints techniques" (diploma level) programme: 8 and 9 May 1987
- Direct and professional entrance examination for "Agents techniques" (certificate level) programme: 2 and 3 May 1987.

For more detailed information about the levels of admission to the different training programmes, please write to:

i) in Côte d'Ivoire : "Monsieur le Directeur de l'ENSEA
08 B.P. 3 - Abidjan 08
Côte d'Ivoire

ii) other French speaking African countries : "Direction de la statistique" of the country

III. SHORT-TERM STATISTICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE REGION

i) Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, U.K.

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) will conduct a course on Development Statistics beginning 4 January 1988 and ending 25 March 1988. This is study course number 11 of the Institute. The course is designed for personnel (not only those employed in the official statistical department) who are or may be directly responsible for the compilation and analysis of data and engaged in statistical operations involving the control of staff and resources. Applicants may be statistician, planning officers and administrators.

The course is designed to provide a practical statistical programme with a strong operational focus based on the particular requirements of developing countries and giving priority to the need to provide information systems which can serve the objectives of national development.

The course is structured under the following headings: Key concepts and measurement, statistical techniques, statistical reports, the use of administrative data, surveys, data processing and statistical frameworks. On the method of instruction, the course will centre on practical use of case study materials, class exercises and individual assignments.

The IDS has no funds for providing support to study fellows. Applicants seeking a British Government Technical Co-operation Award should approach the department in their government which is responsible for external technical co-operation. Such departments will provide details of eligibility. These awards are administered by the British Council on behalf of the Overseas Development Administration (ODA). In less developed countries, those employed in public and parastatal sectors, university teachers and staff of state-financed research institutes are eligible for consideration.

Other applicants may be eligible for scholarships from the EEC, various United Nations Agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF etc., Ford Foundation or Rockefeller foundation. Enquiries for these scholarships should be made direct to the organisation concerned through the local representative where possible. Candidates from ACP countries are eligible to apply for European Development Fund (EDF) awards. These applications must however be endorsed by the national authorities concerned. Further information on EDF fellowships can be obtained from the local European Economic Commission (EEC) delegation.

Further information on the course is available from:

The Chairman
Teaching Area
Institute of Development Studies at
the University of Sussex
Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RE
U.K.

ii) Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU), University of Kent at Canterbury, U.K.

The Applied Statistics Research Unit of the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, is offering the following 12-week residential courses from 3rd July to 25th September 1987.

- Sample Surveys in Agriculture and Rural Development Course

This well-established course, which has now been run six times, is intended for statisticians in developing countries who are working, or will be working, in a rural context, especially in agriculture, and for statisticians who have, or will have, responsibility for the detailed planning and execution of agricultural or related surveys. Planners and agricultural economists are also welcomed on the course, provided they have an appropriate statistical background.

The course aims to provide a sound theoretical basis on which to plan sample surveys and a wide background of discussion of practical considerations in achieving good results. It provides guidance on land area measurment and sample plot selection for land area and yield estimation and gives insight into the problems of organising sample surveys. It introduces modern computing methods for the analysis of surveys and provides guidance on the interpretation, presentation and use of results for governmental and international agency planning and development.

- Course on Crop Experimentation in Developing Countries

This course was run for the first time in 1985. It was developed from shorter courses on experimentation which have been given in Bangladesh and Nigeria. The course is intended for those with responsibility for agricultural experiments in less developed countries. It aims to teach methods of experimentation with crops, keeping practical matters always in view. The course provides cover of all the important theoretical topics in modern experimental design and analysis, appropriate computing methods. It also emphasises practical problems such as the application of treatments, collection of data in the field and writing reports to present results usefully.

The context of the course will be as wide as possible, with emphasis on tropical crops as well as examples of those grown in temperate climates. The course is intended both for agronomists with a basic knowledge of statistics and for biometricians; these two groups will profit greatly from working together. Visits during the course show both theoretical ideas of design and practical problems of conducting experiments.

For further details of these courses, and application forms, please write to:

The Executive Officer
Applied Statistics Research Unit
University of Kent at Canterbury
Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NF
U.K.

iii) University of Reading, Statistical Service Centre, Department of Applied Statistics, U.K.

The University of Reading will from 8 July to 15 September 1987 conduct the following four courses:

a) Statistics in Agriculture

b) Statistics in Government

c) Statistics in Health, and

d) Statistics in Agricultural climatology

The primary aim of these four courses is to review the most widely used statistical techniques in these areas of applications starting from basics but moving quickly to points of real professional interest. In the courses, each technique is explained with a minimum of mathematics. All four courses have considerable coverage of computing and data handling.

Brief details of the courses are given below:

a) Statistics in Agriculture

There are no formal qualifications for entry to the course. However, course participants are likely to have had training and/or experience in statistics and to be engaged in statistical work in an Agricultural Research Institution or Ministry of Agriculture or similar institution. Most will have a university degree or similar qualification, not necessarily in statistics. Participants are expected to be broadly concerned with statistical analysis of data as well as with aspect of data collection; storage and handling.

The course covers the following topics: data management; statistical computing; micro computing; planning statistical investigations; statistical methods; surveys and sampling; agricultural surveys; statistics and development; design and analysis of experiments and modern methods.

b) Statistics in Government

There are no formal qualifications for entry to the course although most participants will have a university degree or a similar qualification. Course participants are likely to have had training and/or experience in handling data from censuses and surveys and routine reporting procedures and to be engaged in work in this area in a government ministry or in a research or academic institution.

The course covers the following topics: data management; statistical computing; micro computing; data collection and reporting; surveys and sampling; statistical methods; analysing population data; modern statistical methods; social and economic statistics; and statistics, government and national development.

c) Statistics in Health

There are no formal qualifications for entry to the course although most participants will have a university degree or a similar qualification. Course participants are likely to have had training and/or experience in handling population, routine health or medical research data and to be engaged in or in charge of work in this area in a health project, a health or related ministry or in a research or academic institution.

The course covers the following topics: data management; statistical computing; micro computing; data collection and reporting; surveys and sampling; statistical methods; topics in biostatistics; modern statistical methods; health services; operational research and statistics in health management process.

d) Statistics in Agricultural climatology

There are no formal qualifications for entry to the course although most participants will probably have a university degree or a similar qualification. Course participants are likely to have had training and/or experience in handling climatological data and to be engaged in work in this area in the meteorological service, an agricultural ministry or in a research or academic institution. The course covers topics on statistical methods, data management, statistical computing, micro computing, modern statistical methods, agricultural data, meteorological data, analysing rainfall data, analysis of other climatic data and crop weather modelling.

The University of Reading has no funds available to subsidise candidates or to supply scholarships to participants. Applicants from countries which have technical co-operation agreement with Britain can apply for a Technical Co-operation Training Award. Further information is available from British Council, British High Commission or British Embassy Offices. Government sponsored candidates may also apply for training funds to UN agencies. Advice may be sought from the UN Resident Representative. In countries covered by the Lome Convention, funds from the European Economic Community (EEC) may be available. The local EEC representative should be consulted.

Further information on the above courses may be obtained from:

Mrs. Alison Ansell
Statistical Service Centre
Department of Applied Statistics
University of Reading
Whiteknights
P.O. Box 217
Reading RG6 2AN
U.K.

iv) United States Department of Labour, Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics in Washington, D.C., USA will conduct eleven seminars during 1987. The seminars bring together statisticians, economists, analysts and other data users from countries all over the world. Each seminar is designed to strengthen capabilities in collecting and analysing economic, labour and social statistics as well as in applying the results to policy formulation, especially for human resources development. Each seminar includes at least one field trip, as well as lectures, discussions and practical workshops.

The following are the seminars to be conducted during 1987:

a)	Computer packages for beginners and users of labour statistics (5 weeks)	9 March - 10 April
b)	Labour statistics, computer software packages (Advanced) (6 weeks)	13 April - 22 May
c)	Labour force characteristics; measurement of employment, underemployment and unemployment (6 weeks)	4 May - 12 June
d)	Measurement of wages, salaries and other compensation and determination of minimum wages (6 weeks)	18 May - 26 June
e)	Manpower projections and analysis for planning and development (5 weeks)	15 June - 24 July
f)	Construction and analysis of price indexes (6 weeks)	29 June - 7 August
g)	Management of labour statistics programmes (4 weeks)	10 August - 4 September
h)	Analysis of labour statistics and policy formulation in the human resources sector (8 weeks)	14 September - 6 November

i)	Occupational safety and health statistics and programmes (5 weeks)	5 October - 6 November
j)	Use of economic data in collective bargaining (2 or 3 weeks)	2 November - 13 or 20 November
k)	Collection and analysis of labour market information (5 weeks)	9 November - 11 December

Participants of the above seminars are typically sponsored by their own governments, by the United Nations or its affiliated agencies, by other international or regional organisation such as the Organisation of American States, by private foundations such as the Ford Foundation, or in some cases, by USAID country missions. The U.S. Department of Labour regrets that it cannot provide financial assistance.

For further information about any of the above seminars, please write to:

John T. McCracken, Director
International Labour Statistics Program Centre
US Department of Labour
200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Room S-1310
Washington, D.C. 20210
U.S.A.

v) University of Strathclyde, Fraser of Allander Institute, Glasgow, Scotland

The Fraser of Allander Institute of the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow will during 1987 offer a 12 week residential course in "National Accounting and Development Planning Techniques". In general, courses are offered twice a year, the first course from April to June and the second course from September to November. Applications are now being processed for the April to June 1987 course.

The course has been designed to provide a sound understanding of the sources and uses of national accounts data in development planning and an appreciation of the techniques involved in the construction and application of development planning models.

The course has three main objectives:

i) To provide a sound understanding of the concepts and methods of national income accounting and its various extensions, including social accounting matrices, input-output tables and regional accounts;

ii) To provide a basic working knowledge of computer hardware and software and use of computers in the processing and application of national accounts data for development planning;

iii) To provide instruction in the concepts and methods of macroeconomic planning models and techniques, the estimation of such models and the development of programme software to run them.

The course is suitable for economists, statisticians, planners and similar personnel who work in the departments, agencies or institutions concerned with statistics and development planning at national or regional level.

Participants for the course would normally come from Ministries of Planning, Industry, Finance, Agriculture, the Central Statistical Office and State (regional) Planning Agencies; a qualification in economics, statistics, accounting or computing is an advantage though not essential.

The course syllabus is as follows:

i) National income accounts - structure and concepts;

ii) Developments in national income accounting;

iii) Data collection and data processing;

iv) Computer technology and hardware;

v) Software;

vi) National accounts and economic development planning;

vii) Estimation and application of planning models; and

viii) Case studies and practical work.

For further enquiries write to the course Director:

Dr. Frank Harrigan
Fraser of Allander Institute
University of Strathclyde
Curran Building
100 Cathedral Street
Glasgow G4 OLN
U.K.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

a) Workshop on Food Supply Information Systems in Africa, New Delhi, India, 13-25 October 1986

Mr. E.F. Ching'anda, Statistical Training Adviser for the English-speaking African countries undertook a mission to New Delhi, India from 12-28 October 1986 with the purpose of representing the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa at the above workshop.

The workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London in conjunction with the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and assisted by the National Sample Survey Organisation of India and the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute. The workshop was sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Twelve Commonwealth African countries were represented at the workshop namely Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania (including a representative from Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition two STPA English-speaking centres were represented namely Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Uganda.

The purpose of holding the workshop in India was to get the Central Statistical Agencies in African countries to review the possibility of establishing integrated food supply information systems in their own countries, taking into account the relevant experience of India.

It was concluded at the workshop that inorder to resolve a number of methodological issues affecting the production of Agricultural Statistics in African countries, there is need to establish a programme of research and field experimentation. Such a programme should be preceded by a baseline study to be conducted in African countries with the purpose of establishing institutional arrangements and methods which have so far been used for the collection of Agricultural Statistics. It was recommended that following the results of the baseline study, another workshop should be organised in Africa with the purpose of reviewing research priorities, issues of co-ordination of different institutions and also funding support that may be required to facilitate the programme of research and field experimentation.

It should be recalled that at the fourth meeting of Directors of STPA centres, it was recommended that two English-speaking and two French-speaking STPA centres should be developed for postgraduate statistical training which will deal with research and field experimentation work. The two STPA centres which participated at the workshop were the ones earmarked by the meeting of Directors of STPA centres to conduct research and field experimentation in English-speaking African countries. The workshop also identified these two institutions as appropriate regional centres to be charged with the responsibility of conducting research and field experimentation.

b) First International Conference on Statistical Data Analysis Based on the L_1- Norm and Related Methods, Switzerland

The University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland has announced that the first International Conference on Statistical Data Analysis based on the L_1- Norm and Related Methods will be held in Neutchâtel, Switzerland, from 31 August to 4 September 1987.

For further information and registration materials regarding the conference, please write to:

Prof. Yadolah Dodge
Conference Organizer
Université of Neuchâtel
Groupe d'Informatique et de Statistique
Pierre-à-mazel 7
2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

c) Department of Social Statistics, University of Southampton (U.K.)

The Department of ocial Statistics of the University of Southampton offers postgraduate courses leading to an M.Sc. in Social Statistics. Courses are taken over one or two years dependent on mathematical and statistical background. Economic and Social Research Council (ESPC) studentships are available for suitable candidates. The department provides supervision for M.Phil and Ph.D degrees by research.

For further details and application forms, please write to:

Head of Department
Department of Social Statistics
University of Southampton
Southampton SO9 5NH
U.K.

d) University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Department of Statistics, U.K.

The Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne has announced the summer school programme in statistics for the M.Sc. degree in statistics. This is a new course and instruction for the course is given during summer schools of ten weeks duration in two successive years. A project is done in a third summer or in between the first two summers. During 1987, the course will take place from 6 July to 18 September and during 1988 the course will take place from 4 July to 17 September.

The topics to be covered in the first summer (1987) are:

Introduction to exploratory data analysis,
Least squares, regression and inference,
Multivariate analysis,
Design and analysis of sample surveys, and
Non-parametric methods.

The second summer (1988) will cover the following topics:

Design and Analysis of Experiments,
Statistical Modelling,
Time Series and Forecasting,
Econometrics and Social Statistics (option),
Medical Statistics (option), and
Operational Research and Stochastic Modelling (option)

Further information about the summer school and application forms for the M.Sc. course can be obtained by writing to:

Dr. David Brook
Department of Statistics
The University
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 7RU
U.K.

e) International Conference on Statistical Forecasting and Decision Making, Kings College, Cambridge, U.K., 28-31 July 1987

The Institute of Statisticians will hold its 1987 Conference in Kings College, Cambridge, U.K. from 28-31 July 1987. The title of the Conference is "Statistical Forecasting and Decision Making". The Conference addresses the theme of how statistical forecasting may be applied effectively to decision making processes in Science, Commerce, Industry and Government. The Conference aims to cover the "State of the art" on all the main forecasting methodologies. Some emphasis will be given as to how these methodologies can be applied to practical problems.

Anyone wishing to present a contributed paper should submit a synopsis or details by 1 February 1987 to the Technical Convenors at the Institutes address. Papers should relate to the Conference theme; particular consideration will be given to case studies where sound statistical theory has been applied successfully to practical decision making.

The Conference will include demonstration of various types of computer software for statistical forecasting. Individuals or organisations interested in demonstrating software should contact the technical convenors or the Conference Secretary, Mrs. Lori Butterworth, Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 IRD, U.K.

The closing date for applications to attend the Conference is 14 July 1987.

f) International Association for Statistical Computing (ISAC), Voorburg, Netherlands

The International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) is a professional society for those who have specialised in Computer Data Systems. The IASC is a section of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Members of the IASC receive the quarterly Statistical Software Newsletter which provides articles of specific interest in their area, a calendar of meetings and conventions in the statistical computing field, and news for and about other members. It is a means of keeping in touch with others in their field; and, through its meeting in conjnction with ISI, an opportunity to present their work to their colleagues in other countries.

Membership dues are US$15 annually which can be reduced to US$7.50 for members from developing countries on request. Membership application forms can be obtained from ISPC or from the ISI permanent office (423 Prinses Beatrixlaan, 2270AZ Voorburg, Netherlands) or mail a cheque or money order made payable to the International Statistical Institute (in U.S. dollars, Dutch guilders, French francs, Swiss francs, Deutsch marks or pounds Sterling) along with your full name, title or occupation and mailing address.